MDA Scheme, pertaining to the period upto 31.3.2000 are being honoured. Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted MDA claims during the year 2001-02 against which depending on the tenability of those claims, an amount of Rs. 70.06 lakh has been released. Their balance claims have been withheld partly for want of matching state share release orders and partly for certain other clarification. Similarly, during the year 2001-02, the Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted claims under Marketing Incentive component of the Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) for release of a total central share of Rs. 804.45 lakh. Against this, an amount of Rs. 365.25 lakh has been released and the balance could not be considered since the State Government had not released its matching share. Thus, no claims have been rejected.

(c) The Government provides marketing support under the Marketing Incentive component of DDHPY. The claims have not been rejected and only certain essential information has been called from the State Government for considering the sanction and release of the balance amount of claim. The remedial measures of releasing the matching state share and furnishing the required information, lie with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Cotton purchase by CCI from farmers

1604. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) have not purchased cotton from farmers in certain States;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the States where CCI purchases cotton from farmers on Minimum Support Price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) purchases kapas (seed cotton) in all cotton growing States except in Maharashtra where the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971 has been in operation.

During the current cotton year 2001-02 (October-September), CCI has purchased kapas (seed cotton), under Minimum Support Price

operations in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa and Rajasthan.

Task Force for textile industry

1605. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force set up by the Prime Minister to map a policy and fiscal restructuring plan for the textile industry is likely to recommend an overhaul of Excise and Custom Duty on textile machinery and changes in the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation of this Committee and the benefits that will accrue to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles) to address three broad issues concerning the textile sector viz., fiscal issues, labour issues and banking/investment issues.

The Terms of Reference are:

(i) To study the Interim Report furnished by the N.K. Singh Steering Group on a Growth Oriented Fiscal Policy, in order to review the action taken on it, and to propose the Action Plan for the coming years to prepare the Textile Industry to meet the objectives of the NTxP-2000.

(ii) To review the existing labour laws and to recommend amendments necessary to those provisions which retard the growth of textile industry;

(iii) To assess the credit requirements for the modernization/revival of the textile industry and the availability of institutional credit, and to suggest measures for ensuring adequate flow of funds to the textile industry.

(b) The recommendations cannot be anticipated.